

31st Fighter Wing: The U.S. Air Force's fighter wing south of the Alps

THE VIGILEER

Vol. 51 No. 29

July 29, 2005

Aviano Air Base, Italy

Fly Bys

Commander's call

There will be a mandatory 31st Fighter Wing commander's call, 8:15 a.m. and 3 p.m. Aug. 5 in Hangar One. All 31st FW Airmen must attend one of these briefings. Civilians are welcome.

Induction ceremony

The 31st Fighter Wing is hosting the 2005 Senior NCO Induction Ceremony Banquet Aug. 5. For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. David Torelli at Ext. 8021 or your unit first sergeant to purchase tickets.

Post office opening

The new Aviano Post Office Complex opens 10 a.m. today. The old facility will be closed 5 p.m. today through Sunday in order to move all mail to the new facility. It is recommended that all patrons check their post office box for their new combinations and to check for mail. Mail that is not picked up by 5 p.m. today will be moved to the new facility. Volunteers are always needed for the post office. If interested, call Master Sgt. Ron Dixon at Ext. 4068.



Airman Nathan Doza

Fallen American WWII heroes honored

By Airman 1st Class Sarah Gregory
31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

United States and Italian Air Force members saluted side by side as a monument honoring fallen U.S. Army Air Force crew members was unveiled July 22 in Grado, Italy.

"It's a big honor to have the Italians recognize American war heroes this way," said Col. Scott Zobrist, 31st Operations Group commander. "This gesture, not often done, is much appreciated."

The monument dedication was in recognition of a B-24 Liberator crew who

died during WWII after their plane was shot down June 30, 1944. German aircraft rammed into their propellers, forcing the plane to crash in the Adriatic lagoon waters around Grado.

The monument features the B-24 propeller that was recovered Jan. 30, 1966 with only two of its three blades and a dedication in English, Italian and German.

"This is a way of saying we never lost our loyalty to the U.S., and we are proud and thankful for their support," said Giovanni Marin, the ceremony event coordinator.

— See Monument, Page 7

Commander's call: A mandatory wing commander's call is 8:15 a.m and 3 p.m. August 5 in Hangar One. Be there.

31st FW Sortie Board

sortie: n, a flight of a combat aircraft on a mission

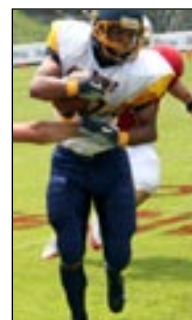
	Hours	Sorties
31st FW goal	1720.3	722
	+151.3	+22
555th FS goal	632.8	432
	+34.1	+7
510th FS goal	1087.5	290
	+117.2	+15



Exercising it

A three-day Phase II - Attack Response Exercise sharpens the combat skills of the world's finest -- Aviano warriors.

- Page 10-11



Football frenzy

The Aviano Bel-luno Grifoni American-style football team takes on the Salzburg, Austria Bulls in the Three Nations Cup.

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31st Fighter Wing

Commander's Corner

Members of the World's Finest, the 31st FW — we have a lot to talk about again this week — it's been awhile since my last column.

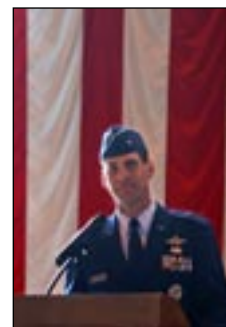
First I'd like to talk about our performance in last week's Phase II exercise. It was a challenging exercise because of the warm weather and the very realistic sequence of events our Wing Inspections experts created for us. We were faces with various realistic (but simulated!) challenges including ground attacks, mortars, rockets, conventional, non-conventional, day/night, you name it!

Yet, we still managed to generate 100 'coins of the realm:' F-16 'combat' training sorties. We 'coined' these sorties in various garb/MOPP gear -- BDUs, MOPP 0, MOPP 2, and MOPP 4 — despite hot and humid summer weather. We exercised command and control in a hostile environment -- using our normal comm conveyances, backup conveyances, antiquated conveyances, and even information runners! We learned how to absorb simulated attacks and get back to generating sorties in minimum time. And through it all we kept our hustle and attitude up, but safety concerns and incidents down. In all, there is but one thing left to say: great job, Aviano ... well done!

Of course, we will face another challenge before we're completely ready to head down range for AEF-7/8. We will need to ensure our readiness to mobilize our forces and generate aircraft for deployment -- what we call a "Phase I exercise." We will conduct a Phase I exercise in mid-August. It will test our ability to process personnel and equipment, generate and deploy aircraft in support of HHQ tasking. It will provide us with an opportunity to hone our game in pre-season to ensure our preparation for AEF-7/8 and the regular season. Just like last time, I need your attitudes and hustle up, and grey matter engaged to keep safety problems down. I've got zero worries — except keeping up with all of you thoroughbreds who make up the world's finest 31st FW during this scrimmage!

The next item of discussion is Wing Com-

mander's Call. Next Friday at 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. in Hangar One, I will hold a Wing Commander's Call. The subject matter will vary from awards to philosophy to wing goals. I look forward to seeing you all there — Airmen, NCO, officer, SNCO — we have a lot to talk about. I'll also reserve time for your questions, so if you've got something on your mind, don't hesitate to bring it with you and 'come up voice' during this opportunity for us to exchange information. Get there early, park and settle in. I'll see you there.



As I draw this week's article to a close, I need to pass on heartfelt thanks to a number of folks and/or organizations. I would like to thank all the 31st FW First Sergeants for putting on a wonderful Wing Quarterly Awards Banquet on Wednesday. The event was meticulously planned and precisely executed — in short it went off without a hitch! Great job, Shirts — I believe you'll all agree that seeing the proud faces of our award recipients made the effort worth it!

Next I'd be remiss if I didn't recognize you all for pulling together and producing a remarkable streak with zero DUIs or major accidents. Thanks to every member of this wing and your dependents for your help here. You all have shown me that you are at the pinnacle of Air Force capability and culture — integrity, service and excellence defined — and I'm very proud to be counted as one of you. You all are truly the 'worlds finest;' I'm not being boastful as the facts indicate this is the case.

This weekend pat yourselves on the back, spend time with your families, enjoy time with friends, and continue to do so safely and responsibly. God Bless and my best to you all — I'll see y'all back at the Aviano Ranch first thing Monday morning!

Commander's Connection

Q: I was wondering why diesel gas coupons are more expensive than regular gas coupons when on the economy diesel is cheaper to buy.

A: Great question! The gas coupon program is governed largely by our Status of Forces Agreement with Italy. Gasoline and diesel coupon prices are determined by the industrial product cost of the fuels, the cost of the payments made to the oil companies (the Euro/dollar exchange rate impacts this cost) and the balance of the coupons from the previous coupon period (i.e. must be a zero balance). On Feb.

1, 2005 the industrial product cost for unleaded gasoline decreased 4.85 percent and the cost for diesel increased 11.56 percent. Therefore, the coupon price for unleaded fuel was reduced while the price for diesel coupons increased. I agree this result may be illogical, but this is how the system works.

To submit a question to the Commander's Connection, e-mail cc.connection@aviano.af.mil. It is recommended that members contact the appropriate agency or go through their chain of command before using the Commander's Connection.

Aviano Airmen learn lessons during exercise

By Airman 1st Class
Sarah Gregory

31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

One could almost hear a sigh of relief as the giant voice announced the end of the exercise that kept the Aviano community on its toes July 19-21.

For three days and nights, 31st Fighter Wing Airmen responded to the sound of sirens and shouts of "Alarm Red."

"This Phase II attack response exercise was designed to train and prepare the wing in the event of an enemy attack," said Capt. Benjamin Johnston, 31st Fighter Wing inspections. "Our next AEF rotation is coming up and this exercise used situations Airmen might face downrange and threats that our folks are facing right now."

During the exercise, several areas around base were attacked and declared to be in Mission Oriented Protective Posture 4. In order to ensure proper MOPP levels and decontamination steps were being followed, a team of emergency first-responders was kept on stand-by.

Part of that emergency team was the readiness support team, who checked for contamination and made sure Airmen were putting on the proper MOPP gear at each contamination check-point.

After the initial Alarm Black is called, the readiness teams respond quickly, allowing areas to be cleared and other emergency team members such as medical services to pass through.



Senior Airman Robert Ortiz

Senior Airman Robert Ortiz, 31st Security Forces Squadron, transitions into Mission Oriented Protective Posture during the Phase II exercise July 20.

"We had four reconnaissance teams checking a total of 31 M-8 paper stations around base," said Staff Sgt. Earnest Mallard, 31st Civil Engineer Squadron.

If a contaminated area is found, the recon team has a series of steps to fol-

low that allows the mission to resume as quickly as possible.

"If a contaminated area is discovered, we cordon it off, call it into the survival recovery center and put that area into MOPP 4," explained Sergeant Mallard.

Keeping just the contaminated areas in MOPP 4 allows a base to have split MOPP levels.

"The whole point to having different protection areas around the base is to prevent the whole base from being in MOPP 4 and to allow the mission to resume," Sergeant Mallard said.

In order to prepare the base for the exercise, mandatory Ability to Survive and Operation training was conducted the week before.

"It's been a long time since the last exercise and we expected a lot of the practical knowledge and experience to be gone," said Lt. Col. Rick LeBlanc, 31st FW Inspections chief. "The ATSO training was a huge success and got us thinking about what's important and what we need to be doing downrange."

As with every exercise, the opportunity to refresh forgotten skills and learn new ones is present.

The wing put on a solid performance during this exercise, said Brig. Gen. Robert Yates, 31st FW commander. "Our folks are ready to face combat challenges downrange. I am very proud of our skill level and the hustle shown."

The next base-wide exercise will be a Phase I and is scheduled for mid-August.

Life-threatening emergency?: Call the Italian authorities by dialing 118. For on-base emergencies, dial 911.

Test pilot school selection board date set

Air Force officials plan to hold the next test pilot school selection board at the Air Force Personnel Center Nov. 28 to Dec. 2 for classes beginning in July 2006 and January 2007.

The U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School trains pilots and navigators as well as civilian and military engineers to test and evaluate the newest aircraft and weapons systems.

Applicants from all aircraft types and backgrounds must have strong academic and technical experience, along with a desire to help develop the next generation of Air Force weapons and weapons systems.

Air Force officers and civilians eligible for the school can volunteer for a joint Air Force Institute of Technology and test pilot school program leading to a Master of Science degree in aeronautical, electrical or computer engineering.

Selected officers will enter AFIT for a special program then continue on to the regular test pilot school curriculum 15 months later.

All officers eligible, in accordance with Air Force Instruc-

For more information on application procedures, Airmen can call the AFPC Special Flying Programs Office at DSN 665-2330, commercial (210) 565-2330 or visit the test pilot school Web site at www.edwards.af.mil/TPS/.

tion 99-107, Test Pilot School, may apply. Officers who currently have an application on file must update it as specified in AFI 99-107.

New applications and updated information must arrive no later than Oct. 14 at HQ AFPC/DPAOT3, 550 C Street West, Suite 31, Randolph AFB, TX 78150-4733.

Applicants should advise their commanders or supervisors who are providing recommendations on an AF Form 1712, Special Flying Programs Recommendation, of the application deadline.

Only those applicants available for reassignment who also meet time-on-station requirements will be considered. (AFPC News Service)

**Focus on
Combat and Special
Interest Programs**

**Combat
Wingman**

Combat Wingman is designed to promote and sustain a culture of Airmen actively concerned for the wellness of their fellow Airmen. Our jobs are inherently stressful, but we can combat its negative effects by taking care of each other. Understand the four dimensions of wellness: use its principles to combat stressors in yourself and others. Acknowledge and discuss the stressors we all experience and emphasize the available services. Bring your courage: confront your Wingman or other Airmen if you see them delving into destructive behaviors.

Out of this world: Air Force helps shuttle return to flight

By Tech. Sgt. Jennifer Thibault
Air Force Space Command Public Affairs

Almost two weeks after its original launch date, NASA's Discovery Shuttle took to the air Tuesday, but they are not doing it alone.

"NASA could not launch the space shuttle without range and space surveillance support from Air Force Space Command," said Jeffrey Ashby, former astronaut and liaison between the command and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. "The dedication and attention to detail of AFSPC members are absolutely necessary for safe operation of the space shuttle."

Support will be provided by Airmen of the 1st Space Control Squadron, 45th Space Wing, 21st Space Wing, 14th Air Force and Air Force Space Command. Each unit is part of the command's combined efforts to meet both launch and on-orbit space shuttle requirements.

"We support NASA through our space surveillance network," said Lt. Col. David Maloney, chief of the space situation awareness branch. "Our network consists of 31 radars and telescopes that track more than 13,000 man-made objects on a daily basis."

This information comes into play when NASA officials plan the shuttle's launch and orbit path.

"It's important to know where all of the objects are because we certainly don't want to launch the shuttle into the oncoming path



NASA photo

Col. James Kelly (left) and retired Col. Eileen Collins are two of three military astronauts on the Discovery crew.

of an orbiting man-made space object that is sufficient size to damage the shuttle," Colonel Maloney said.

Outside of the space situation awareness support, the safety and range/spacelift division at AFSPC headquarters also contributes to the shuttle launch.

"After the last launch, NASA said they needed better cameras," said Maj. Vince Cassara, chief of the division. "During the past two years we have worked on enhancements at the range to include long-range cameras that can track the shuttle after launch and improved video playback capabilities."

Major Cassara's division also assists with range money and equipment issues and oversight for the day-to-day operations. (Courtesy of AFSPC News Service)

Bake-off: The Aviano Commissary is hosting its annual baking contest 2 p.m. Aug. 6. For more information, call Ext. 7656.

Monument, from page 1

After the plane was attacked, witnesses saw the plane lose altitude and crash into the lagoon. Only two of the crew members parachuted to safety, where one later died of his injuries.

The event occurred on the B-24 came more than a year after Italy signed a treaty agreement with the Allied powers Sept. 8, 1943, which opened Italy's coastline along the Adriatic sea for Allied air strikes against Germany and Austria.

The day's events also included an air show featuring the Frece Tricolor Italian air force MB-339 aerial demonstration team and a fly-over by four Aviano F-16 Falcons.

"On behalf of the U.S. Embassy in Rome and the U.S. Air Force, we thank the Italian air force and Grado for the wonderful airshow and the



Airman Nathan Doza

The WWII monument features a real B-24 *Liberator* propeller found with a blade missing in the waters around Grado, Italy.

monument," said Lt. Col. Ed Ryan, assistant air attaché with the U.S. Embassy in Rome. "Our heroes of the past deserve this moment."

B-24 Characteristics

- * Span: 110 feet
- * Length: 66 feet, 4 inches
- * Height: 17 feet, 11 inches
- * Weight: 56,000 pounds loaded
- * Armament: Eleven .50-cal. machine guns [nose, left and right cheek, two top turret, two ball turret, left and two right waist and tail] plus a normal maximum load of 8,000 pounds of bombs
- * Engines: Four Pratt & Whitney R-1830s of 1,200 horsepower each
- * Cost: \$336,000
- * Maximum speed: 303 mph
- * Range: 2,850 miles
- * Service ceiling: 28,000 feet

USAF Reserve seeks full-time duty applicants

Air Force Reserve officials are looking for officers and enlisted people to fill full-time Active Guard and Reserve positions.

In the past 15 years, the number of slots has increased from 400 to more than 1,900 authorizations.

"We have opportunities in many specialties but a larger concentration in career fields such as security forces, combat rescue, intelligence, maintenance, space, pilot and personnel," said Maj. Dawn Sutor, deputy director of the office of Air Force Reserve's AGR management office. "Currently, Air Force Reserve Command's hard-to-fill positions are in security forces, intelligence and combat rescue. We are actively seeking volunteers for these programs."

Reservists in the AGR program serve under the authority of Title 10 of the U.S. Code and receive most of the benefits afforded to the active force. They qualify for an active-duty retirement, provided they attain career status and can serve 20 years active federal military service.

The program offers tours of duty on the Air Staff; AFRC headquarters at Robins Air Force Base, Ga.; Air Reserve Personnel Center headquarters in Denver; in AFRC units; and with other major commands.

Information about vacancies and application procedures, as well as more details on the program, is available on the AFRC Web site under job opportunities at www.afrc.af.mil/. (Courtesy of AFRC News Service)

U.S. military members in Europe can save money on vehicle tax

U.S. military members stationed in Europe may ship vehicles to the United States duty-free. This customs exemption can mean big savings if you meet three conditions. Members shipping a vehicle must take physical possession of the vehicle before leaving Europe. They must also have valid movement orders and be importing the vehicle for personal use.

"Most people who encounter problems fail to take physical possession of a vehicle before shipment," said Michael Burkert, director of the U.S. European Command's Customs and Border Clearance Agency.

"If you have a power of attorney ship your car after you leave Europe, you risk having to pay the 2.5 percent import duty," he added.

Having a car shipped directly to the states from the factory is also a bad idea because you never physi-

cally took possession of the vehicle and are not entitled to the duty savings.

Registering a vehicle is the most common way of proving possession. But customs officials will cross-check the dates on your movement orders with the registration to ensure you shipped the vehicle before you left Europe.

When registration is not feasible, people can prove possession by personally putting a copy of their movement orders in the glove compartment. A power of attorney or agent may not do this for you.

Second, departing members must have a set of official change-of-station orders in hand before shipping a vehicle. People on extended leave or temporary duty are not entitled to the exemption.

Third, the vehicle must be for your personal use or for use by immediate fam-

ily members. "If you had six dependents of driving age," Burkert explained, "you could justify importing seven vehicles duty-free; one for each of them and one for yourself." However, it is illegal to use the exemption to import vehicles for third parties or in order to sell them.

When you ship vehicles stateside as part of a PCS move, you can avoid federal duties and taxes, but usually not the state taxes which can be high. Information on state taxes can be obtained from your state department of motor vehicles. Internet links to state DMVs can be found at <http://rmv.hqusa.army.mil/newdmvs.htm>.

Call a military customs office to learn more about federal duty exemptions. Your local transportation office has more details on the haulage rules. (U.S. European Command Customs and Border Clearance Agency)

Story ideas? Aviano Airmen can submit stories or commentaries to vigileer@aviano.af.mil.

New to the Blue birth announcements

Congrats to these Aviano families on their newest additions!

Sofia Mona Guimarães Holzer was born June 5 to Janaina and Maj. Michael Holzer, 31st Medical Group, and brother Vitor Hugo Pessoa, 7.

Emma Grace Prunty was born July 13 to Stacey and Staff Sgt. Allan Prunty, 603rd Air Control Squadron, and siblings Christopher, 7, and Alexa 4.

Dalton Eugene Sather was born Dec. 14, 2004 to Airman 1st Class Jillian Sather, 31st Maintenance Squadron and Staff Sgt. Jonathon Whitney, 31st MXS.

Amayah Jade Singleton was born June 3 to Staff Sgt. Charmaine Singleton, 31st Dental Squadron and Bobby Hawks, American Computer Service.

Dilan Gabriel Verduzco was born June 25 to Tech. Sgt. Michelle Verduzco, 31st



Services Squadron and Master Sgt. Richard Verduzco III, and siblings Oneida Cristina, 4, and Ricardo Verduzco IV, 2.

Cecilia Mary William was born February 23 to Tech. Sgt. Jodi Williams, 31st Communications Squadron and Staff Sgt. Kevin Williams, 31st CS.

Note: Baby announcements can be sent either through the form provided by the 31st Medical Group, or e-mailed to vigileer@aviano.af.mil.

31 FW WARRIORS SHARPEN



Airman Nathan Doza

Today's deployed Airmen face many threats, enemy fire and attacks from all directions. Every day is a battle for survival. Many people have forgotten what it's like to be in a war zone. The 31st Aerospace Expeditionary Force prepares for the worst. 31st Fighter Wing Airmen were put to the test during the Attack Response Exercise July 19-21. A glimpse into what their fellow team members are experiencing - and what we all might be.

Left: Explosive Ordnance Disposal member Airman 1st Class Dallas Bozeman, 31st Civil Engineer Squadron, cautiously assembles a rope to pull a submerged unexploded ordnance from the ground during the Phase II exercise July 20. In addition to ground attacks, the base also underwent simulated chemical air attacks.

Bottom corner: Senior Airman Jason McMillon, a member of the 31st CES fire department, attaches a hose to an outlet on a fire truck while rescuing a fighter pilot from a burning F-16 (simulated).



Airman 1st Class Scherrie Gates



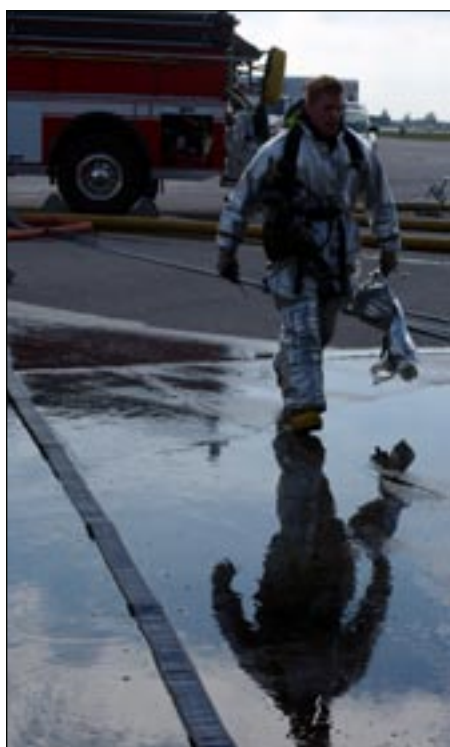
Above: In Mission Oriented Protective Posture 4, Senior Airman Robert Ortiz, 31st Security Forces Squadron, provides security to the flightline as the base underwent an Alarm Red ground attack. During the three-day exercise, the base experienced several simulated ground and air attacks.

N COMBAT SKILLS

any difficulties; terrorist
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to deploy, Aviano's 31st
test during a Phase II
Airmen received a brief
members downrange are
e facing in the future.



Senior Airman Nichole Adamowicz



Senior Airman Nichole Adamowicz

Staff Sgt. James Scheu, a 31st CES firefighter, goes back to the scene of a mock fire to retrieve his ladder and rescue tools July 19.

Right: Senior Airman Robert Adao, 31st Security Forces Squadron, peers around a corner preparing to fire at opposition forces that have attacked the base during an exercise simulation.

College registration

The University of Maryland University College-Europe begins Term 1 undergraduate and graduate registration August 8-19. Students can earn certificates, associate, bachelor's, and master's degrees in a broad selection of disciplines. Additionally, UMUC-Europe accepts a variety of financial aid sources, including military tuition assistance, VA benefits, employer tuition remission, loans, and grants. UMUC-Europe also offers a variety of scholarships to help pay for courses. Term 1 classes run August 22 through October 15.

For more information, call Cecilee Allen at DSN: 370-6762 or 49 (0) 6221-378189.

Auto Skills Center

Aviano Auto Skills is closed through Sunday. The center will re-open Monday at the new location in the Flightline Area, Bldg. 1464, behind Outdoor Recreation.

Combined briefings

The next Palace Front

and Palace Chase briefing is 2 p.m. August 8 in the 31st Mission Support Group Conference Room, Bldg. 1403, in the Flightline area. The Palace Front briefing is a mandatory outprocessing requirement for all re-enlistment eligible Airmen who are electing to separate from the Air Force. Airmen interested in early separation through Palace Chase can also attend this briefing. For more information, call Master Sgt. Janet Boyles at Ext. 4919.

Housing closure

The Housing Management Office will be closed August 15 for an Italian holiday.

La Leche League

The La Leche League of Aviano meets 10 a.m. August 8 in the Chapel Education Center, Area One Bldg. 168. The group welcomes pregnant and breast feeding mothers for an informal discussion on avoiding difficulties and breast feeding. For more information, call 0434-75-5606 or 348-242-5373 or

e-mail LLLAviano@yahoo.com.

Online tuition

Effective Aug. 8 to 22, military students must use the On-Line Tuition Assistance Program. On-Line Tuition Assistance can be accessed through the Air Force Portal. Once in the Air Force Portal, students must go into "Careers" and open the Air Force Virtual Education Center (AFVEC). The Aviano Education Office needs all military personnel to ensure they have an Air Force Portal Account before registration begins. Call Ext. 5330 for more information.

Munition inventory

To comply with annual inventory requirements, the 31st Maintenance Squadron munitions flight is conducting a closed warehouse inventory Monday through Aug 12. The inventory takes place in the storage area and the flight line. Only emergency requests submitted in writing and approved by the group commander or equivalent will be approved. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Steve Metcalf or Tech. Sgt. Robert Bower at Ext. 7419.

Child development

Learn more about child development and behavior, discipline, ages and stages at parent classes. Meet with other parents of children aged 2 to 12 years for support and networking. Class meets in four sessions 6:30 to 8 p.m. Aug 9, 16, 23 and 30 in Bldg. 108, at Area One. Call Family Advocacy at Ext. 5667 to sign up.

Harley barbecue

The Aviano Harley Owners Group Chapter is sponsoring a free barbecue for all ID card holding Harley-Davidson riders August 14 in Area D. The festivities start with a ride, beginning 10:30 a.m. at Area D. The ride will finish back at area "D" at 12:30 for food, drinks, biker games and a raffle. For more information, e-mail

wayne.parks@wayne.af.mil.

AES open house

The Aviano Elementary School hosts an open house for new and returning students and their parents August 26. Students with last names beginning with an A - L may come 9 - 10:30 a.m., and M - Z 10:30 a.m. - noon.

Dental exams

Pediatric dental exams at the Base Chapel Annex are suspended during the months of July, August, and September. The 31st Dental Squadron is open 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday, except federal holidays and wing down days. Emergency care is available 24-hours a day, seven days-a-week by calling Ext. 5000. Appointments for comprehensive dental care can be made by calling Ext. 5060. Children under the age of twelve must be attended to at all times. Dental appointments will be re-scheduled for patients with unattended children below the age of twelve.

Free child care

Aviano community members ready to PCS or who have just arrived with a child at least 1 year of age are entitled to free childcare. The Childcare for PCS Certificate is good for 60 days prior to leaving and 60 days after arriving at a new duty station. Call Ext. 5407 for more information.

Aviano Thrift Shop

The Aviano Thrift Shop is under new leadership and seeks motivated volunteers to build up this community organization. Volunteers are needed to help sort and price items, stock shelves, and assist customers with donations and consignments. Experience is not required. High school volunteers are welcomed; hours can be used for both school and scholarship applications. The shop is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Call Ext. 5428 during open hours for more information.

Reel Times

Today, 5 p.m. - "The Honeyymooners" Rated PG-13 - A man tries to win back his wife after losing their life savings on a get-rich quick scheme. Starring: Cedric the Entertainer, Mike Epps

Today, 8 p.m. - "Mr. and Mrs. Smith" Rated PG-13 - John and Jane are an ordinary suburban couple with an ordinary, lifeless suburban marriage. But each of them has a secret. Starring: Brad Pitt, Angelina Jolie

Saturday, 2 p.m. - "Star Wars: Episode III - Revenge of the Sith" Rated PG-13 - Chancellor Palpatine with Anakin Skywalker's help, begins to turn the Republic into the Galactic Empire. Starring: Ewan McGregor, Hayden Christensen

Saturday, 7 p.m. - "Mindhunters" Rated R - On a remote island, an FBI training program goes horribly wrong when a group of young agents discover that one of them is a serial killer. Starring: Val Kilmer, LL Cool J

Sunday, 7 p.m. - "Mr. and Mrs. Smith" Rated PG-13

Tuesday, 11:30 a.m. - "Garfield" Rated PG - Jon Arbuckle buys a second pet, a dog named Odie. However, Odie is then abducted and it is up to Jon's cat, Garfield, to find and rescue the canine. Animated

Wednesday, 7 p.m. - "The Honeyymooners" - Rated PG-13

Thursday, 7 p.m. - "Mindhunters" Rated R
(Titles and times are courtesy of www.aafes.com, and are subject to change.)

Fly Bys

Travel Web site

Americans with travel plans should visit <http://travel.state.gov> to get the latest travel advisories in Europe. Maintained by the U.S. Department of State, the Web site offers a list of places suspected of anti-American activity, as well as other information for travelers. Call the Office of Special Investigation at Ext. 7643 with questions about the site or other antiterrorism force protection measures.

Experience Europe

The Information Tickets and Travel office offers group and customized tour packages for one-day trips, express travel, overnight and morale tours, sight-seeing and shopping trips. The office can arrange travel and reservations for squadron and private tours as well as daily and weekly tours. For more information, call Ext. 5072.

Traveling reminders

If you are traveling around Europe, remember the following travel safety tips:

- Don't wear clothes that easily identify you as American, such as those displaying the flag, American colleges or sports teams.
- Avoid talking about religion or politics with strangers. If a person ever approaches you with the intent to start such a discussion, ignore him or her and walk away.
- When dining out at a restaurant, ask to see a menu before ordering to understand their daily prices. If you receive a bill you consider excessive, talk to the manager. If you are not able to get satisfaction, call the authorities.



Courtesy photo

Considered a family beach, Bibione is quiet and relaxing. The main stretch of beach features a boardwalk with playgrounds for kids.

Local beaches offer something for everyone

Whether you're looking for adventure or just a relaxing nap in the sun this summer, the Friuli Venezia Giulia and Veneto regions offer long, sandy beaches for all types, for adults and kids. So pack your beach bag and take your pick.

Lignano Sabbiadoro — The name itself means "Land of Golden Sand." It features eight kilometers of coastline and is considered the main beach of the Friuli Venezia region. Crowded all summer-long, the tourist season reaches a peak in August. Among its many attractions are the harbor which holds more than 5,000 boats, an 18-hole golf course, the Parco Zoo Punta Verde zoo and a little park devoted to Ernest Hemingway, who frequented the beach in the 1930s. There are five amusement parks for kids; Gulliverandia, the new thematic park whose main attraction is the aquarium as well as the reconstruction of the pre-historical, medieval and Maya's world (0431-423133), Parco Junior, a large playground in the town centre (0431-721370), Strabilia Luna Park, I Gommosi (0329-2193521) and the

Aquasplash water park (0431-428826).

For those who just want to relax, there is a horse riding ground just outside the town and the thermal baths in Lignano Riviera. For more information, visit www.aplignano.it then TERME. Other useful Lignano Web sites include www.lignano.it or www.lignano.com.

Bibione — Many consider this beach to be the best beach of the Northern Adriatic Sea: fine sand that stretches for 8 kilometers and reaches 200 to 450 meters from the water edge. The main part of Bibione has a long boardwalk and some nice playgrounds for kids. A new spa features thermal waters gushing out at the temperature of 125 Fahrenheit. The spa is opened all year long. Visit www.bibioneterme.com to learn more.

Bibione is generally considered a beach for families, since it is quiet and relaxing and does not offer as many discos as Lignano. On the seaside you can find many windsurfing, diving and swimming schools. Visit www.bibione.com. **Next week: Caorle and Grado.** (31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs and Monica Delrizzo)

Hassle free: Call the Information, Tickets and Tours office at Ext. 5072 and let them handle all your vacation details.



Courtesy photo

Information, Tickets and Tours

Upcoming tours from the Information, Tickets and Travel office include:

- Saturday - Verona and dinner at Medieval times.
- Wednesday - Aug. 7 - Berlin and Poland with a stop at Auschwitz and Krakow
- Aug. 6 - Guided Vienna
- Aug. 6 - Guided Venice and gondola ride

- Aug. 13 - Croatia by boat
- Aug. 13 - Guided San Marino

The ITT escort will ensure the group arrives and departs from the destination as scheduled and will do everything possible to make the trip safe and comfortable. He or she will provide general information about the area, as well. Call Ext. 5072 or 5026, for more information.

On the border of East and West Berlin, the **Brandenburger Gate** was the symbol of the city's divide. Since the wall fell, it has become the symbol of a reunified Berlin.



File photo

Grifoni ground attack

Aviano Grifoni wide receiver Nicholas Brown eyes downfield after threading through two Salzburg defenders during the Three-nations cup championship game in Vienna, Austria July 16. The Salzburg Bulls bested the Grifoni 37-6. "We were just undermanned," said Grifoni coach Wylie Parker. "We

went up there with what we had — 16 players, but it was a good game. The size of their team made the difference in the end." The Aviano Grifoni had a perfect 7-0 season record heading into the nations cup game. The Grifoni claimed the 2005 Alpe-Adria League Championship in Slovenia June 11.

Spin class: Join Dragon Fitness Center spinning classes at 11:30 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Sergeant runs marathon for his ailing father

By Capt. Carlos Diaz

386th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

There are many reasons to run a marathon, but for a C-130 Hercules flight engineer at a forward-deployed location, honoring his ailing dad was more than enough reason to slip on his running shoes.

Tech. Sgt. Peter Rearick's father recently suffered a heart attack and is scheduled to have heart surgery in August.

"My dad's been a really big marathoner his whole life," said Sergeant Rearick of the 738th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron. "He was still running marathons all the way into his 60s, and about two months ago he had a heart attack."

Sergeant Rearick decided to support his father while deployed by running a marathon before his father goes into surgery.

Aviano softball playoffs (as of Tuesday)

31st Logistics Readiness Squadron	10
31st Operations Support Squadron	4
31st Aircraft MXS	10
31st Maintenance Squadron AMMO A	6
31st MXS AMMO A	15
31st LRS	6
31st Communications Squadron	10
31st Maintenance Squadron A	6
31st Security Forces Squadron	20
31st Maintenance Squadron PMEL	10
31st MXS PMEL	10
31st CS	9

Fly Bys

Open volleyball

Aviano volleyball buffs are invited to open gym volleyball from 1 to 4 p.m. Sundays at the Aviano Dragon Fitness Center. The entire gym will be open to volleyball players during those hours. For more information, call Ext. 7459.

Start smart soccer

Online registration for the Aviano Youth Center's start smart soccer program for 3 and 4 year olds begins Monday and runs through Aug. 26. Cost is \$45 and includes: youth T-shirt and youth soccer package. For more information, call Ext. 8713.

Youth program soccer

Online registration for the Aviano Youth Center's regular soccer program begins Monday and runs through Aug. 26. Cost is \$45 for members and \$50 for non-members. For more information, call Ext. 8713.

Kuk Sool Won

The Aviano Community Center offers youth and adult Kuk Sool Won classes. Youth classes are: 6 to 7:30 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays; adult classes are: 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays. For prices and more information, call Ext. 5479.

Yoga and Pilates

The Aviano Community Center offers yoga and pilates classes 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. and 7 to 8 p.m., Mondays and Wednesdays. The Tuesday and Thursday classes are from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. For prices and more information, call Ext. 5479.

Massage therapy

The Area Two Fitness Center offers Swedish, deep tissue and pre-natal massage therapy as well as hot stone therapy. For more information or to make an appointment, call Shawn at 348-364-0684.

Are you ready? ...

Having a plan for deployments is key

By Col. Scott Zobrist
31st Operations Group Commander

Are you ready to go to war? From the mission perspective, the answer is hopefully "Yes!" Everyone in the 31 FW is clearly focused on executing the wing's wartime mission. But are you personally ready to go to war? Do you have your personal affairs in order? Have you prepared for that situation that nobody wants to think about – becoming a casualty? These are difficult issues to confront, especially for family members, but you must address them to ensure that your personal life is squared away before you deploy.

Is your will up-to-date? More importantly, do you even have a will? If not, go to the legal office and get one. Do it for your loved ones – a will can make things much easier on them during their time of loss.

How about your record of emergency data – is it current? It only takes a few minutes to update it online at the virtual military personnel flight. You can also call the MPF to confirm that your SGLI data is accurate.

A power of attorney can be helpful during a deployment because it authorizes a designated person, such as your spouse or a friend, to take care of financial and legal matters in your absence. It is a powerful document, and everyone has different needs, so talk to the legal office to find out what is best for you.

Organizing important information at home is a must prior to any deployment. Ask yourself, "If something happens to me, can my spouse/friend/wingman find all my important documents?" One excellent technique is to consolidate these documents into an "emergency data file" in a fireproof box. It might include: will, power of attorney, copy of DD Form 93, insurance and financial documents, birth/marriage certificates, etc. The idea is to make it easy to locate all of your important personal information.

If you have children, develop a game plan with your spouse in case of an emergency. Will your spouse want someone from home to come here to help? Does that person already have a passport? What if your spouse is injured while you are down-range? Who will care for the kids? If your

spouse plans to leave the Aviano area, does he/she know to leave contact information with your squadron's Key Spouse so he/she can always be reached?

If your marital status has changed recently, it is especially important to update legal and financial documents. Everyone has heard the story about a recently remarried military member who died but failed to update the paperwork to make his new wife the insurance beneficiary. His new wife received nothing while his ex-wife got everything.

Some single Airmen might think, "This personal readiness stuff is just for married people," but that's not true. In fact, deployments can actually be harder on single Airmen than their married counterparts since they have no one left behind to take care of things. Who is going to pay the bills? Check the mail? Take care of the dog? Water the plants? Mow the lawn? Plus, they still need to consider all the other issues like wills, powers of attorney, etc. So, if you are single, get organized and develop a good plan to take care of things while you are gone.

The wingman concept is especially helpful during deployments. If you are single, your wingman might be the right person to check your mail and take care of your pet. If you are married, ask your wingman to help your spouse with home repairs or come to the rescue when the car breaks down. It's nice for a spouse to know they always have someone they can call for help. If your wingman is deploying with you, find another wingman who isn't deploying.

For all of us, we need to look at our own wingmen to ensure they are personally prepared to deploy. They are probably busy at work while some of their personal affairs slip through the cracks. Ask them the tough questions above ... it's your job as a wingman.

One final note: Personal readiness is not just a wartime issue. In fact, more deaths typically occur during peacetime than in war, so you'd be wise to ensure your personal life is always squared away.

While it may be uncomfortable discussing these issues with your loved ones and friends, you'll be glad you did. It will bring peace of mind knowing that your personal affairs are in order.

"... Personal readiness is not just a wartime issue. In fact, more deaths typically occur during peace time than in war ..."



The Cornerstone

An indispensable and fundamental basis

The Cornerstone Page is devoted to those who support junior enlisted, NCOs, CGOs and spouses. It's to share advice, ideas and opinions dealing with life in the Air Force and Aviano. It's also a forum to recognize those around us. The Cornerstone Page will also offer Air Force trivia and facts.

Submission info: We want to hear from you. Flex your writing talents and share your thoughts with us and the community.

Commentaries: Writers can send commentaries to vigileer@aviano.af.mil. Commentaries must be 500 to 700 words. Topics must be applicable to the Air Force, Aviano and appeal to the general public. For questions or concerns, call the Vigileer at Ext. 7344.

Kudos: Aviano members can send kudos to Vigileer@aviano.af.mil with the subject line "Kudos." Kudos can be submitted for appreciation, retirements, awards, good service, promotions and graduations.

Deadline: The deadline for submitting information is close of business Thursday one week prior to publication. Faxed articles will not be accepted by the staff. The public affairs office is in Bldg. 1360, Room 19.